

THE NUMISMATIC COLLECTION

HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION: The earliest record of a numismatic collection at Princeton goes back to 1849, when friends of the (then) College of New Jersey bought and donated a collection of plaster casts ("sulfurets") of Greek and Roman coins, formerly the property of Lord Vernon. For a succinct account of the collection's subsequent growth (it now contains well over 20,000 items), see B. Levy and P. Bastien, *Roman Coins in the Princeton University Library I* (Wetteren, 1985), pp. xi-xii. Researchers wishing to consult materials in the collection should apply to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

GENERAL RECORDS OF THE COLLECTION: There is a photographic record (but without text), kept with the collection, of Nos. 1-4,110. Nos. 4,111 to the present are listed in seven accession books; in addition to these, all accessions from 1985 on are described on 3x5 cards, and also, from 1992 on, in the MASC electronic database. For records of individual series, see the descriptions below. There is a separate typescript record, supplied by the donors, of the three groups of coins (totaling over 350 items) given by Mark and Lottie Salton in 1996 and 1998: "The animal kingdom on Greek coins," collection numbers 1996-45 through -153; "Silver coins of the Severan dynasty," collection numbers 1996-154 through -232; and "Greek coins missing in the collection of Princeton University," collection numbers 1998-46 through -224. For the two groups of Greek coins in the Salton gift an alphabetic index by mint, kept with the typescript record, has been compiled; images of most of the Salton coins can be found in the MASC database.

THE GREEK COLLECTION (NC-001) contains over 3000 Greek-inscribed coins of the Classical and Hellenistic periods (ca. 550-30 BCE), as well as "pseudo-autonomous" coins issued by Greek states under the Roman Empire. (Coins issued by Greek states in the names of Roman emperors, termed "Greek imperial" or "Roman provincial," are kept with NC-002, the Roman collection.) The arrangement is by regions, as established by B.V. Head, *Historia Numorum* (ed. 2, London, 1911). For the description of individual series, civic or royal, within these regions, the basic reference is the British Museum's 29-volume *Catalogue of Greek Coins* (London, 1874-1929). More recent catalogues used for classification include, e.g., the multi-national and still continuing series of collection descriptions *Syllogai Nummorum Graecorum* (1931ff.). The Greek collection, like others up through the medieval period, is housed in open boxes in 26 2'x2' trays. Contents of the trays, and the approximate number of coins

housed in each one, are as follows (unusually large holdings within particular series will be noted):

#1: Spain-Italy (160). #2: the Baldwin Maull, Class of 1924, gift of silver staters and fractions of Tarentum (314; Maull's handwritten catalog, with provenances, accompanies the collection. One hundred twenty-two of these coins are described in W. Fischer-Bossert, *Chronologie der Didrachmenprägung von Tarent* (Berlin/London, 1999). Other references used for this series are *Collection Claudius Cote de Lyon: Monnaies de Tarente de 550 à 209 av. J.C.*, (Paris, 1928); and O. Ravel, *Descriptive catalogue of the collection of Tarentine coins formed by M.P. Vlasto*, (London, 1947.) #3: Maull fractions (end); Sicily and islands (107). #4: Macedonia through Alexander III (164, including 62 tetradrachms with the types of Alexander III). The general reference for these is M. J. Price, *Coinage in the Name of Alexander the Great and Philip Arrhidæus: A British Museum Catalogue* (London, 1991.) #5: Macedonia II: Alexander III's silver fractions and bronze (96). #6: Macedonia III, Philip III to the end of autonomous coinage; Thrace (163, including 12 tetradrachms and one posthumous gold stater of Lysimachus). #7: Thessaly, Epirus, Corcyra, Illyricum (98). #8: Acarnania, Aetolia, Locris, Boeotia, Euboea (126). #9: Attica, Megara, Aegina (128; 11 are Athenian New Style tetradrachms, for which the reference is M. Thompson, *The New Style Silver coinage of Athens*, New York, 1961). #10: Corinth, Sicyon, Achaëa (123). #11: Elis, Messenia, Laconia, Argos, Arcadia (112). #12: Crete, Bithynia, Pontus, Paphlagonia, Mysia, Troas (111). #13: Aeolis, Lesbos, Ionia (100). #14: Caria, Lydia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Pisidia, Cappadocia, Armenia (159). #15: Lycia, Cilicia, Cyprus, Commagene (19). #16: Phoenicia I: to Marathus (100, with 19 tetradrachms and 2 silver fractions of autonomous Aradus). #17: Phoenicia II (180, all Sidon and Tyre, with 20 tetradrachms and 9 didrachms of autonomous Tyre). #18: Seleucid kings I, through Alexander I (150). #19: Seleucid kings II, through Philip Philadelphus, and local city coinages (153). #20: Judaea, kings and procurators, city coinages; Nabataea; Himyarites (51). #21: Persia; Parthia I, through Pacorus II (10 Achaemenid; 82 Parthian drachms and 1 tetradrachm; many unstudied small Parthian bronzes. Nearly all Parthian material was given by or purchased from J. Christy Wilson in the 1920s). #22: Parthian II: through Gotarzes (4 tetradrachms, 16 drachms, many small bronzes, as in Tray 21). Elymais (12, with 1 tetradrachm of Kamnaskires III and Anzaze), Persis (5), Characene (11). #24: Sassanian (140). #25: Bactrian and later regional issues, to the 4th c. CE; Indo-Parthian and Kushan (106). Ptolemaic kings, Cyrene, Carthage, Numidia, Mauretania (154).

THE ROMAN COLLECTION, including "Greek imperials" (NC-002). Over 5800 coins: 650 of the Roman Republic, mostly silver, chronologically arranged

following the order of M. Crawford, *Roman Republican Coinage*, 2 vols., London, 1974; over 5200 of the Roman Empire, mostly silver and bronze, to Anastasius (ca.35 BCE-491 CE), chronologically arranged following the order of H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham et al., *Roman Imperial Coinage*, 10 vols. (London, 1924-1994); and *idem*, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, 6 vols. (London 1924-1962). There are notable holdings in the coinage of Roman Corinth, the 1976 gift of Prof. and Mrs. T. Leslie Shear Jr.; about 100 of these are recorded in M.Amandry, *Le monnayage des duovirs corinthiens* (Paris, 1988). Contents of the Princeton collection from the Republic through Commodus (ca.2000 coins) have been published by B. Levy and P.C.V. Bastien, *Roman Coins in the Princeton University Library I* (Wetteren, 1985).

With the Greek and Roman coins should be mentioned three important associated holdings: (1) The foundation piece of Princeton's collection, a group of over 5,000 plaster casts of classical coins, bought by friends and alumni of the institution in 1849, and still in their original wooden trays. (2) The Greek and Roman coins excavated before 1939 at Syrian Antioch. These are catalogued in D.B. Waage, *Antioch-on-the-Orontes IV.2: Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Crusaders' Coins* (Princeton/London/The Hague, 1952). (3) Twelve cased volumes of *impronte*, i.e. plaster casts of classical (and modern) intaglio gems, made up by the Roman firm of Paoletti, active in the 18th and 19th centuries. On *impronte* see <http://www.beazley.ox.ac.uk/gems/database>.

BYZANTINE (NC-007). Over 500 coins in gold, silver, bronze. Some of these have been described, together with examples in the Princeton University Art Museum, in S. Curcic and A. St. Clair, edd., *Byzantium at Princeton*, Princeton, 1986. General references used for the Byzantine series are P. Grierson et al., *Catalogue of the Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection*, 3 vols. in 4, Washington., D.C., 1966-1973, and C. Morrisson, *Catalogue des monnaies byzantines de la Bibliothèque nationale* (Paris, 1970).

WESTERN MEDIEVAL (NC-008). Ca. 275 coins; the largest holdings are in coins of the Italian states (82), England (56), France (52).

PRE-MODERN ISLAMIC (NC-005). Ca. 150 coins attributed, the same number unattributed (the latter all copper). The collection also houses the Islamic coinage from the Antioch excavations, and the accompanying card file; see the catalog by G.C. Miles in *Antioch-on-the Orontes IV.1: Ceramics and Islamic Coins*, ed. F.O. Waage (Princeton, 1948).

PRE-MODERN SOUTH EAST ASIAN, FAR EASTERN; EXONUMIA (NC-011). A small collection of Chinese coins, the gift of Dr. O.A. Holzer; ca. 30 North Siamese coins (exonumia) given by Dr. W. William Harris; 12 Siamese weights given by Dr. W. Harding Kneedler. A few other pieces of exonumia (cowries; larins; sycee; shell money).

MODERN WORLD COINS AND TOKENS (NC-004). A very large collection, but generally of minor value and research interest (for example, it contains less than 2 dozen silver coins of thaler size or larger). It is arranged in alphabetical order, and kept in paper or Mylar envelopes in 46 boxes, each capable of holding up to 500 coins. A parallel group of ca.5000 modern world coins, the bequest of James Boskey, is kept in the clear 8x11" plastic sheets provided by the donor. NB modern gold,--except for U.S. gold, kept with the U.S. coinage -- is stored separately (138 pieces, chiefly the gift of Dean Mathey).

UNITED STATES,INCLUDING COLONIAL (NC-012). About 2000 pieces; 200 of these are Colonial, chiefly of New Jersey and the William Wood "Rosa Americana" series. There is a check list of holdings. The group as a whole is of very varied quality, with its fine and rare pieces coming chiefly from the collections of C.A. Cass and Dean Mathey. (The account of Princeton's American coins given in *Princeton University Library Chronicle* VI, 1945, pp.138-40, preceded these donations.) In addition, the collection has U.S. mint and proof sets from 1936 to1978, the gift of Edward Leh. There are 6 pattern coins, are all listed in J.H. Judd, *United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces*, ed.7 (Racine, Wis., 1982).

MEDALS (NC-003). The Library medals number over 2000. They consist of five discrete collections, two organized by theme (aviation, World War I), the rest miscellaneous. (1) The aviation medal collection given Princeton by Arthur L. Newman, Class of 1923: see next entry (NC-010). (2) The World War I medal collection, the gift chiefly of W. D. O'Gorman, of Mrs. H.L. Savage with Mrs. Joseph Townsend, and of H. Kenaston Twitchell, contains ca.240 pieces, organized alphabetically by artist's name. A checklist is kept with the collection, and is also electronically available. (3) Ca. 200 miscellaneous medals of varied provenance (NC-003) are organized alphabetically by country, and within each country by date. (4) Ca. 500 miscellaneous medals (AM), similar to those in NC-003, but organized alphabetically by subject. Checklists of (3) and (4) are kept with the collections, and are electronically available; the contents of AM are also described in an older 3x5 card file. (5) The C.C. Vermeule collection: see NC-013 below. The Library collection also includes a few military awards and decorations: these are uncatalogued, except for those in NC-010.

THE NEWMAN MEDALS (NC-010). Over 770 medals relating to balloons, dirigibles, airplanes, manned spacecraft. Arranged in order of date given on the medal. (Date range 1758-1970.) The collection also includes the donor's typescript catalog, with photographs and full information for each piece; and a few related items (dies, collector's plate, etc.) The catalog is available online: <http://libweb.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbsc/aids/newman/>

THE C.C. VERMEULE III MEDALS (NC-013). Ca. 450 miscellaneous pieces, organized by date of accession; there is a handlist, also available in electronic form. Contents range from Renaissance to modern American; they largely represent the materials used for the donor's books *Medals to Masters* (Boston, Mass., n.d.), and *Numismatic Art in America* (Cambridge, Mass., 1971); but there is also a large group, over 100 pieces, on canine themes. The donor's (incomplete) descriptive catalog, with photographs, is kept with the collection.

PAPER CURRENCY AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (NC-006). There are notable holdings in U.S. Colonial/Continental and Confederate paper (ca. 650 and 2000 pieces respectively), chiefly the gifts of C.A. Cass and André de Coppet: see L.C. West in *Princeton University Library Chronicle* XXI, 243-4. The standard references for these series are (a) for Colonial and Continental: Eric Newman, *Early Paper Money of America*, ed.3 (Iola, Wis., 1990); (b) for Confederate: Grover C. Criswell, *Confederate and Southern State Currency: a descriptive listing* (Iola, Wis., 1964). There is a representative but far from complete collection of U.S. 19th century Broken Bank notes (ca. 1200 pieces); the standard reference for these is James A. Haxby, *Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes*, 4 vols., (Iola, Wis., c.1988). (In the Library collection, all American currency is arranged alphabetically by state, where applicable, and by date). There is a small holding in non-U.S. paper, but with a notable gift of Chinese and Russian 20th-century issues from W.W. Lockwood; and, from several donors, selections of German World War I currency and postwar "Notgeld," some transferred out of EX: from Carl Breuer; C. Gaskell (=EX 4324); R.J.M. Horton; B.K. Schaefer; Benjamin Strong; N.B. Tooker (=EX 4376); Van Vorst. The standard reference is Arnold Keller, *Das deutsche Notgeld*, 8 vols. (Berlin 1958-60). All paper currency is kept in clear folders in 11 flat boxes, except for most of the Notgeld, which, with the exception of one boxful, remains in (12) original collectors' albums.